HAMPTON PLANTATION STATE PARK

VISITOR'S GUIDE

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This guide is based on a master plan produced in 1980 by the staff of the Division of State Parks of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism, with funding assistance from the United States Department of Interior locally administered by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Authors: Michael Foley, Marion Edmonds, Ray Sigmon
Graphics: Dennis Laws

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Hampton c. 1900

Hampton c. 1930

INTRODUCTION

The history of Hampton plantation can be traced to the earliest European settlement of the Santee delta. Huguenots, protestant emigrants from France, were among the first arrivals in the colony of Carolina. Introducing an already rich cultural heritage, the impact of their arrival continues to this day. Histories of the state are populated with the descendents of those early settlers, with names like Horry, Laurens, Marion, and Ravenel. Among the areas where the Huguenot influence was greatest was the lower Santee, known in the eighteenth century as the "French Santee". By examining the history of Hampton Plantation, the families whose lives revolved around it, and its relationship to the world of the French Santee, we can better appreciate the struggles and victories of Carolina's early Huguenot colonists.

In the seventeenth century, many French protestants emigrated to England in search of economic opportunity and religious tolerance. In London, they became a part of the French community whose life centered around the Threadneedle Street Church. It was from this congregation that two Huguenot promoters, Rene Petit and Jacob Guerard drew the nucleus of a colony in southern Carolina.

The English Crown granted permission for the colony on 24 October 1679, hoping, in the best spirit of mercantilism, that the industrious Huguenots would promote the production of silk, oil, and wine in semi-tropical Carolina. As an inducement to emigrate to the New World, each free colonist was promised seventy acres of land and passage. In addition, every colonist was granted seventy more acres for each male servant he brought, and fifty acres for each female servant.

At 5 a. m. on 19 December 1679, about fifty Huguenots boarded the British frigate **Richmond** in London and began their winter journey to a strange world. Many of the Huguenots apparently spent their first years in Carolina working as artisans and mechanics in the struggling young village of Charles Towne. In 1696 the Huguenots were granted civil status equal to that of their English neighbors, and many began the critical transformation from craftsman to planter. The significance of this move lay in the greater possibilities for wealth and power open to the successful planter. In the early years of the eighteenth century various grants, deeds, and memorials all attest to the acquisition of lands by Huguenots on the lower stretches of the Santee River in St. James Parish, Craven County. This region became such a center for Huguenot settlers and planters that it was known as the French Santee.

In 1699, it was estimated that there were 111 French protestants living on the Santee River, making up nearly a quarter of the total Huguenot population in South Carolina. An interesting eyewitness account of what life was like for these earliest Santee settlers was provided by John Lawson in his **New Voyage to Carolina** . An English adventurer, Lawson and his men rowed on 28 December 1700 from the Ashley River up the coast to the Santee. Along the way they visited with farmers scratching out a living on isolated Bull's Island. Lawson reached the Santee at a time when the river was swollen by winter rains and first encountered not French or Englishmen but Sewee Indians. The Sewees, once the sole and rather numerous inhabitants of the Santee were already, in 1700, well on the way to extinction. Lawson noted that two of the chief causes of the tribe's downfall were

small-pox and alcohol, both brought to them by the white man.

Not long after encountering the Sewee Indians, Lawson met his first Huguenot settlers. He told how the French, from the most humble origins, had in a short time arrived at very "splendid Conditions", and went on to discuss the physical appearance of the Jamestown settlement and it's inhabitant's religious status.

> At Noon we came up with several French Plantations, meeting with several Creeks by the way the French were very officious in assisting with their small Dories to pass over these Waters (whom we met coming from their Church) being all of them very clean and decent in their apparel, their Houses and Plantations suitable in Neatness and Contrivance. They are all of the same Opinion with the Church of Geneva....

Six years after Lawson's visit, these "Church of Geneva" Huguenots would be established as an Anglican parish.

THE HORRY FAMILY

The Horry family which built and developed Hampton Plantation was descended from Huguenots who had emigrated to Carolina in search of religious freedom and economic advancement. Elias Horry, a Parisian born in 1664, fled to Amsterdam, from there to London, and finally to Carolina. Elias is listed as one of the French and Swiss Protestants seeking naturalization in 1695-96. On 17 August 1704, Elias married a fellow Huguenot immigrant, Margaret Huger, daughter of Daniel Huger, the French Santee planter mentioned earlier in Lawson's 1700 travel journal. Within a few years Elias had begun to acquire rice plantation land on the south side of Wambaw Creek, a branch of the South Santee River, opposite his father-in-law's domain. Today, Hampton Plantation probably stands on the Wambaw Creek land acquired by the Horrys during the period 1700-1730.

Elias and Margaret had six children. The youngest son Peter, founded Belle Island Plantation on Winyah and became famous as a Colonel of Militia during the Revolution. After the Revolution, the South Carolina county of Horry was named in his honor. The two oldest sons, Daniel and Elias were deeded lands on Wambaw Creek in 1730, and apparently settled into the life of Santee planters.

Elias Sr. contracted country fever late in the summer of 1736 and soon died. The eldest son, Daniel, purchased the Wambaw Creek land of Elias. We know with some certainty, therefore, that by 1736 Daniel Horry owned land that would later be called Hampton Plantation. What is unclear, however, is whether Hampton Plantation house already existed in 1736, and therefore had been built by Elias, or whether it was built by Daniel between 1736 and 1759, or perhaps before or even after 1759 by Daniel Horry the second. Lise Rutledge, great-granddaughter of Daniel, Jr. apparently writing before 1900, stated that "Hampton House was built about the year 1750 by Col. Daniel Horry...."

Daniel Horry Jr. was the only son of Daniel Horry and Sara Battison. He married Judith Serre, the daughter of another wealthy Huguenot planter, in 1759 and there were two children from that union. Judith died in 1765, however, and the children were both dead by 1767. In addition, Daniel's father died in September of 1763 and was buried at St. James Santee. By 1768 then, when Daniel Horry Jr. married Harriot Pinckney, he had sole possession of the lands on which Hampton presently stands.

The Horry lands on Wambaw Creek comprised some 5,000 acres and were worked in the traditional manner of a low country plantation. Rice was grown on the swamp lands along the water front, and particularly on Hampton Island directly across from the house. These rice fields

had been carefully intersected with systems of canals and ditches. The fields could therfore be flooded and drained as the demands of the rice season required. In 1756, the merchant Henry Laurens, who handled much of Horry's export, noted that drought and the uncertainty of war (Seven Years War) had damaged Horry's rice output for the year. It was the war, however, that created a demand for Horry's other major crop. Indigo, used in the dyeing of naval uniforms, reached its peak as a cash crop during this time when the British government was paying a bounty to encourage its cultivation. Laurens sold 965.5 pounds of indigo for Horry at one point in 1755, and two years later there is a reference to a sale worth 300 pound Sterling.

While rice and indigo were the chief products of a low country plantation, to be financially viable, a planter needed to utilize every resource at his disposal. The cypress and pine which covered the rice and indigo fields respectively were converted to lumber, shingles, and naval stores. In 1763, for instance, Laurens bought 300 barrels of turpentine from Horry. To move his product to market and to give himself a measure of independence from the merchants, Horry registered a fifteen ton schooner, **Active**, in 1764, and another schooner, the **Speedwell**, in 1767.

The Harriot Pinckney-Daniel Horry wedding of 1768 united two of South Carolina's most influential families. The Horry line represented three generations of successful Santee planters, while the Pinckneys were among the leaders of politics and business in the colony. The widower Horry was about thirty years of age, his bride nineteen. Both had received a part of their education in England. Horry had studied law at the Inner Temple and had been called to the English Bar. Miss Pinckney had gone to England with her family in 1753, (her father was acting as a special agent for the colony in England), and had spent six formative years living in the motherland, during which time she traveled widely and visited with the royal family.

The second Daniel Horry, master of Hampton 1759-1785.

In marrying Harriot, Daniel gained not only a wife, but also a mother-in-law who was already a South Carolina legend. Eliza Lucas had come to South Carolina in the fall of 1738 with her parents. They had settled on a plantation on Wappoo Creek, about seventeen miles from Charles Town. When her father, a British major, was

recalled to duty in Antigua the following spring, Eliza, though only sixteen, remained in South Carolina to manage the plantation, and care for her sister and semi-invalid mother. As if those duties weren't enough, Eliza managed over the next two years (1739-1741), to produce an indigo crop with seed sent her by her father. When merchant planter Charles Pinckney's wife died in 1743 after a lenghty illness, Charles and Eliza became engaged, he at forty-three, she at twenty. Harriot was one of three children of the Lucas-Pinckney union, the other two being the famous brothers Thomas and Charles Cotesworth. Eliza's husband had his career cut short when after his return from the England trip mentioned above, he contracted malaria and died in 1758. Eliza was therefore once again left to manage a plantation single-handed. She never remarried, and when her only daughter married Daniel Horry, Eliza more or less permanently attached herself to that household. For over twenty years therefore she was a regular feature of Hampton Plantation.

In August of 1769, Daniel and Harriot's first child, Daniel Horry Jr., was born, followed in a few years by their only other child, a daughter, Harriot. It is during the early years of Daniel and Harriot's marriage that the name Hampton first appears in contemporary documents. As of this writing we have no written record of what the structure itself looked like, but we have a clue as to the layout of the grounds surrounding the house. Lise Rutledge stated in her note on Hampton House, that no avenue of trees was placed in front of the house so that Mr. Horry could indulge his passion for racing horses. Contemporary evidence seems to support this statement, for several newspaper notices and letters attest to Horry's interest and investment in race horses. Indeed, a letter written by Mrs. Horry in February of 1771, is mildly critical of her husband's "manly amusements."

Daniel and Harriot enjoyed only a few years of normal married life before the beginnings of the Revolutionary conflict. Horry was an early leader in the politics of the Revolutionary period. Though not a radical, Horry was a strong believer in colonial rights. Horry was a member of the First Provincial Congress and served on the Congress' Committee of Intelligence in 1775. In June of that year, the Provincial Congress elected officers and Daniel was elected a captain, sixth overall in the voting, tied with his brother Peter, and behind his brother-in-law, C.C. Pinckney. In September of 1775 Horry was re-elected to serve on the Second Provincial Congress.

Horry quickly rose to the rank of cavalry Colonel and took part in a number of military engagements in South Carolina and New Jersey. While the men were engaging the British at various locations throughout the state, a small army of women and children were seeking refuge at relatively isolated Hampton. Harriot, her children, and Eliza Lucas were there, of course, but in addition, Charles Cotesworth's wife, Sally Middleton Pinckney, and her two children were there. Hampton also sheltered Sally's sisters, Mrs. Edward Rutledge and Mrs. Charles Drayton, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Arthur Middleton, and her stepmother, Mrs. Henry Middleton. The wives of two South Carolina delegates to Congress, Mrs. John Mathews and Mrs. William Henry Drayton also sought refuge there. Other women who, with their children, periodically found safety at Hampton were Mrs. Ralph Izard, Miss Elliott, Miss Hyrne, and Mrs. Daniel Huger. Probably at no other period in its history was Hampton so full of life.

The most critical and tragic phase of Horry's public career came with the siege and surrender of Charleston in 1780. The city fell on 11 May 1780, but Horry and his regiment escaped capture by being on assignment outside of the city. After the city's fall, when the area around Hampton was overrun by the British, Horry took protection and lay down his arms. In August of 1781, while the war in South

Carolina was reaching its peak, Horry actually went to England to enroll Daniel Horry Jr. at Westminster School. Ironically, the most unfortunate blow to Daniel's career was about to occur with the improvement of the Patriot's position in 1781-1782.

When the General Assembly reconvened at Jacksonborough in January of 1782, the delegates were in a mood to punish those fellow Carolinians who had lost heart in the Patriot cause. The Assembly decided to confiscate the property of Tories and amerce that of former patriots who had taken British protection. Daniel Horry fell into this second category. The **Royal Gazette** of South Carolina on 25 March 1782 noted that Daniel Horry was among those persons whose estates were amerced by a twelve percent, ad valorem. Edward Rutledge wrote to Arthur Middleton that "Horry had many friends, but they were unsuccessful. Indeed had it not been for the many Virtues of the Pinckneys, the Estate would (un)questionably have been confiscated." Daniel Horry returned from England early in the spring of 1782, and Edward Rutledge, again writing to Arthur Middleton, noted that; "truly to be pitied he (Horry) is - My Mother writes that he has had a Fit, & is Ten Thousand Times more wretched than any person she ever knew...."

By the end of the war Horry had largely retired from public life and service. Politically he had become increasingly conservative. During Charleston's political upheaval in July of 1784 Horry led a mounted band against a Whig society, the Anti-Britannics. His last official function came in July of 1785 as representative of St. James Santee's vestry to the Second Convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in South Carolina. In late October of that year Horry contracted country fever. It may be that instead of malaria Horry was suffering from sort of liver failure, or "bilious fever". At any rate, the sickness was a horrible one, as Harriot recounted to her mother: "he is as yellow as the darkest Orange... he speaks very thick and is much confused, is scarce ever free from hiccoughs and his tongue is much crusted... he breaths hard...."

Four days later Daniel Horry was dead. His inventory and will present solid evidence regarding the physical layout of Hampton and its use as a plantation. The inventory seems to indicate that the ball room and the western additions to the house had already been completed by 1785. The will gave use of Hampton to Horry's wife Harriot, as long as she lived, and ownership to Daniel Horry Jr. who was still in Europe. After 1785, Hampton was managed by Harriot Horry and her mother Eliza Lucas Pinckney. It is worth remembering that both women were experienced in the running of plantations, and there is no indication that the estate suffered. At any rate, Mrs. Horry was doing well enough in 1786 to order an elegant English coach, for which she paid 100 tierces of rice. It was also Mrs. Horry who, according to tradition, ordered and supervised the construction of the beautiful Adamesque portico on the south side of Hampton in late 1790 or early 1791.

The portico figured prominently in accounts of Hampton's most famous visitor. In early 1791, President George Washington made a major tour through the young United States. His own rather cryptic journal entry for 5 May 1791 reads: "Left Georgetown about 6 o'clock and crossing the Santee Creek at the Town, and the Santee River 12 miles from it, at Lynch's Island, we breakfasted and dined at Mrs. Horry's about 16 miles from Georgetown and lodged at the plantation of Mr. Manigold (sic) about 19 miles farther." Tradition asserts that Thomas Pinckney led Washington up the steps of the newly completed portico where the President was met by Harriot Horry, her mother and daughter. Each was arrayed in sashes and bandeaux painted with likenesses of the

President. It is on this visit that the famous Washington Oak incident is supposed to have taken place. Traditionally, Washington was asked whether a young oak directly in front of the house should be removed to improve the view, Washington is supposed to have suggested that the tree be spared, it was. This story was so often repeated, it may well be true. At any rate, there definitely is a giant old oak directly in front of the portico.

Late in 1792, Eliza Pinckney developed breast cancer and was taken to Philadelphia for specialized treatment. The attempts at a non-surgical cure failed and in May of 1793 the remarkable Eliza died at the age of seventy. President George Washington served as one of the pall bearers. After the death of her mother, it appears that Harriot Horry spent less time at Hampton, and more in Charleston.

As we have seen, Harriot and Daniel Horry had two children, Daniel Horry Jr., and Harriott Pinckney Horry. Daniel Jr. technically master of Hampton Plantation, had enrolled in school in England in 1781 and remained there for a number of years. He then went to France where he became a confirmed Francophile and married the niece of LaFayette, Elenore Marie F. DeFay Latour Maubourg. While his uncle, Charles Cotesworth Pinckney, was in France on diplomatic duty, Daniel Horry Jr. changed his name to Charles Lucas Pinckney Horry. Although his interest in Hampton and South Carolina faded, Charles did return for at least a little while, since he appears to have been helping his mother manage the plantation in 1799. In addition, an 1809 plat of Hampton refers to it as the plantation of C.L.P. Horry. With C.L.P. Horry's death in 1828, the estate formally reverted back to Daniel's wife Harriot.

The Horry's only other child, Harriott (named the same as her mother), married Frederick Rutledge in October of 1797, and thereby introduced yet another of South Carolina's leading families into the history of Hampton.

THE RUTLEDGE FAMILY

The Rutledges were a family that had risen from rather obscure origins to the first rank of South Carolina society within the short space of two generations. First in the line in South Carolina was Dr. John Rutledge, an English physician and former Royal Navy surgeon, who settled in Charleston in 1735. In 1738, he married Sarah Hext, step daughter of his brother Andrew Rutledge, and heiress to the fortune of her father, Colonel Hugh Hext. The eldest son of this marriage became the second and better known John Rutledge.

A prominent lawyer and planter, John Rutledge (The Dictator) was a member of the Stamp Act Congress, both Continental Congress's and the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He was elected president of South Carolina during the Revolution, and he held the same office under the title of governor. He was an associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States and Chief Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court. John Rutledge was married in 1763 to Elizabeth Grimke of Charleston and the third son of that union, born in 1768, was Frederick Rutledge. Frederick was twenty-nine and Harriott twenty-six at the time of their marriage, and the union produced eight children.

Although this marriage of 1797 set the stage for Hampton's future as the domain of the Rutledge family, the house was to remain in the possession of, first the wife, and then the daughter of Daniel Horry for the next sixty-one years. Harriott Horry lived until 1830, outliving both her son-in-law Frederick Rutledge, Sr. who died in 1821, and her son C.L.P. Horry who died in 1828. The first decades of the nineteenth century were active ones at Hampton, with a richness of life based on continuing prosperity and a busy social life.

Fortunately, we have left to us a word-picture of Hampton during these years while it was still under the personal

supervision of Harriott Horry. Jonathen Mason, a young Massachusetts politician, on a grand tour of the South in 1804, passed through the lower Santee region and recorded the following impressions of Hampton and its environs.

"Feb.2. At the distance of six miles from Georgetown we were met by my friend Rutledge (Frederick's brother), and by him, the same evening, carried to Madam Horry's, on the south side of the South Santee, at Hampton. We passed the next day, the 3rd, at this hospitable mansion. The weather excessively cold, and freezing the water in all the basins and tumblers in the house. This situation is most delightfully variegated by the shape of the grounds and the fine live-oak trees in great abundance, size, and magnificance. It gives you the idea of the cultivated English taste; the seat of wealth, splendor, and aristocracy. The rice fields on the side and the rear form an extensive flat as far-as the eye can reach, and everything you meet upon this plantation carries with it the appearance of a community. You see blacksmiths, wheelwrights, carpenters, masons, shoemakers, and everything made and manufactured within themselves. Of four or five hundred negroes, one fifth have trades and follow them. It is a perfect society, of which the owner is absolute lord and master; and such are all the considerable plantations in this country, and incomes of many of whom are one hundred thousand annually; some are known to make upwards to three thousand barrels of rice. Within their houses you meet great hospitality, the polish of society, and every charm of social life; and abundance of food, convenience, and luxury. It is impossible but that human nature in such a situation, doing justice to those under him, must feel himself lord of the earth."

Family letters reveal that until near the end of her life, Harriott Horry continued to personally manage Hampton, chiefly with the advice and assistance of her brother, Thomas Pinckney. An interesting letter from Thomas in March 1822, shows how the several Horry plantations were managed.

"I would plant no crop but provisions at Wambaw & Hampton & I would take as many of the hands as are necessary (indeed the whole of them if Johnson can spare them) to put Harrietta swamp into as complete order as the season yet admit; and I would keep them there until the crop is well (?) I would then leave with Johnson as many of the women as should ensure the crop being attended in the highest order, & I would return all the men & as many women as might not be wanted at Harrietta to Wambaw & Hampton, where they should be steadily employed through the summer in putting the Island in order and if Mr. Addison understands the business & will attend punctually he will well earn his wages. At any rate I should insist upon every ditch being cleaned out to six feet in depth and every drain to three feet and an half, and the exterior bank raised two feet with a considerable slope inward on rivers creek I would find two good ploughs at least to be worked by oxen to trench plough the whole of the planting land through the summer which would entirely renew the soil for the next crop, and I think I would ensure its yielding two barrel and an half to the acre next year if properly tended and no high freshets occur after the first of May."

As a sidelight, it should be noted that the following fall, one of the worst hurricanes ever to strike the Santee region nearly destroyed Hampton and all the other Horry plantations.

In her will, proved 1830, Harriott Horry left her plantation to her daughter, Harriott Pinckney Horry Rutledge, whose husband, Frederick Rutledge (1), had died intestate in 1821. While retaining ownership, the widowed Harriott Rutledge left most of the management of the plantations to her two oldest sons. Letters show that Edward, the eldest child, had largely taken over management of Hampton by 1836. About this time, however, because of the climate

and fears of malaria, Hampton was increasingly a place the family visited during the winter months and avoided throughout most of the year.

The mountain scenery of North Carolina proved a major attraction for the residents of Hampton in their search for a summer refuge. The Rutledges were among the founders of the Flat Rock-Fletcher community in the summer of 1827. During the decades before the Civil War, Frederick's family came to spend more of each year at Fletcher than at Hampton. The addresses of family letters indicate that the family usually stayed in the mountains from March or April until late September or early October. The degree of their attachment perhaps can be measured by the fact that over a dozen family members chose to be buried at St. John's in the Wilderness, near the Fletcher retreat.

Although Edward C. Rutledge apparently managed Hampton from about 1836 to his death in 1860, he only legally owned the estate after the death of his mother Harriott Rutledge, in October of 1858. After her death, Harietta, the neighboring plantation named and intended for her, was sold to the Doar family. During the years 1840 to 1860 there is little documentary evidence about the use of Hampton plantation, although this apparently was a time of declining fortunes. When Edward died in 1860, Hampton went to his brother, Frederick. Frederick's feelings for Hampton may be revealed by the fact that within a year of his acquisition of the plantation, he sold it to his son, Henry Middleton Rutledge, for "Love and Affection."

Like his father, Henry Middleton Rutledge continued to summer in the North Carolina mountains. Events soon occurred, however, which were to drastically alter both Rutledge's immediate and long-term plans. In April 1861, South Carolina bombarded and captured Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor. President Lincoln responded by issuing a call for military volunteers from all states in the Union. Armed conflict seemed imminent, and North Carolina, surrounded by seceded states and faced with a choice of fighting with or against her neighbors, decided for the Confederacy.

The "mountain men" of western North Carolina began to assemble in Asheville. By 15 August 1861 the Twenty-fifth Regiment of North Carolina was organized. The field officers for the regiment were elected by a vote of the commissioned officers of the companies. Henry Middleton Rutledge, described as a "boyish-looking young man of 22, with military education and bearing," was elected third in command and given the rank of Major.

The regiment set out from Asheville in September of 1861 and proceeded by foot and rail to Raleigh and Wilmington, receiving uniforms and weapons along the way. During April and May the regiment was reorganized. Major Rutledge was elected second in command and was promoted to Lt. Colonel. Within a few months the commissioned officers were given promotions, thus elevating Rutledge to Colonel.

By 24 June 1862 the Twenty-fifth had reached Richmond, Va., and was assigned as part of General Robert Ransom's brigade, General Huger division. The following day 25 June, the unit saw its first action at Seven Pines. General Huger wrote after the battle that "the Twenty-fifth Regiment (Col. H.M. Rutledge) was pushed to the left of the Williamsburg road, where the enemy had advances, and drove them back in gallant style."

It seems that Colonel Rutledge was gradually becoming active leader of the regiment, and was a favorite of the men, as the following passage, written by the unit's historian, indicates:

"During the Virginia and Maryland campaigns, Colonel Rutledge had so endeared himself to the noncommissioned officers and privates of his regiment, by his

courage and kindness, that they presented him a fine saddle horse, not allowing the commissioned officers to take part in the presentation service."

The North Carolina men saw some of their most vicious fighting along side the South Carolinians in the Crater at Petersburg. They were also engaged at Ft. Steadman on 25 March 1865. A lieutenant present at this action recalled:

"After the enemy retook Ft. Steadman and was advancing in front and while the regiment was suffering the effects of an enfilading fire from the left, the Colonel (Rutledge) walked along the line of his regiment with his cap on sword, shouting to his men, 'Don't let them take our front, Twenty-fifth, the Twenty-fifth has never had her front taken.' "

Within two weeks the war was over. The regiment's loss from its enlistment to the surrender was 200 killed in action, 280 dead from disease, 470 wounded of whom 140 were wounded more than once.

After the war the Rutledge's initially continued to spend the major portion of each year away from Hampton, either in McClellanville, Charleston, or Fletcher.

Colonel Henry Rutledge and his second wife, Margaret Hamilton Seabrook, spent their final years at Hampton, struggling to maintain the plantation's former glory in a radically altered economic environment. Hampton during these years presented a strange juxtaposition, with its grand architecture surrounded by a lawn planted in string beans and crowded with chickens. An accidental visitor to Hampton in 1915 has left a poignant glimpse of the plantation in the early years of this century.

"After a time we could see a light on the bank and as we approached a little nearer, white dresses, indicating ladies in the party, Col. Rutledge, and the ladies, his wife and daughters. He, a dignified gentleman of some seventy years of age, helped me to land, and then inquired my name, turning to introduce me to his wife, a charming woman about his own age, and his daughters. As we walked up through an avenue of immense trees, I caught a glimpse of an outline, until we suddenly faced this noble example of the mansion or big-house of its period. The owners now are impoverished, but proud of their family history. The growing of rice is no longer profitable. They are too far from market to make money on cotton, corn, and tobacco, and lack the capital for fertilizer and labor. Ten miles from church and twelve from post office and store.

How I wish I could adequately describe Hampton Hall. The front of the house faces away from the creek and has a portico laid with bricks, the roof being supported by immense wooded pillars in the arc of a circle."

The Colonel and Mrs. Rutledge worked in a variety of ways to cope with the financial requirements of maintaining Hampton. From letters of the period we know that Mrs. Rutledge raised chickens and hogs for sale and cultivated a vegetable garden for the needs of the family. The Colonel attempted to grow cotton on the cleared land of Hampton and to extract turpentine from its pine forests, but neither scheme met with much success. In addition, he occasionally hosted parties of northern hunters and was, for a time, the local postmaster.

The Colonel and Margaret had six children of which Archibald Hamilton Rutledge was the fifth. After the death of the Colonel in 1921 and Margaret in 1923, Hampton sat neglected for a number of years. It appeared that the old house might go the way of so many other Santee plantations,a victim of changing economics and lifestyles. Hampton, however, was spared such a fate when in 1937, the Colonel's youngest son Archibald, retired to his ancestral home.

Archibald was born on 23 October 1883. Most of his childhood, until he went to Porter Military Academy in Charleston at

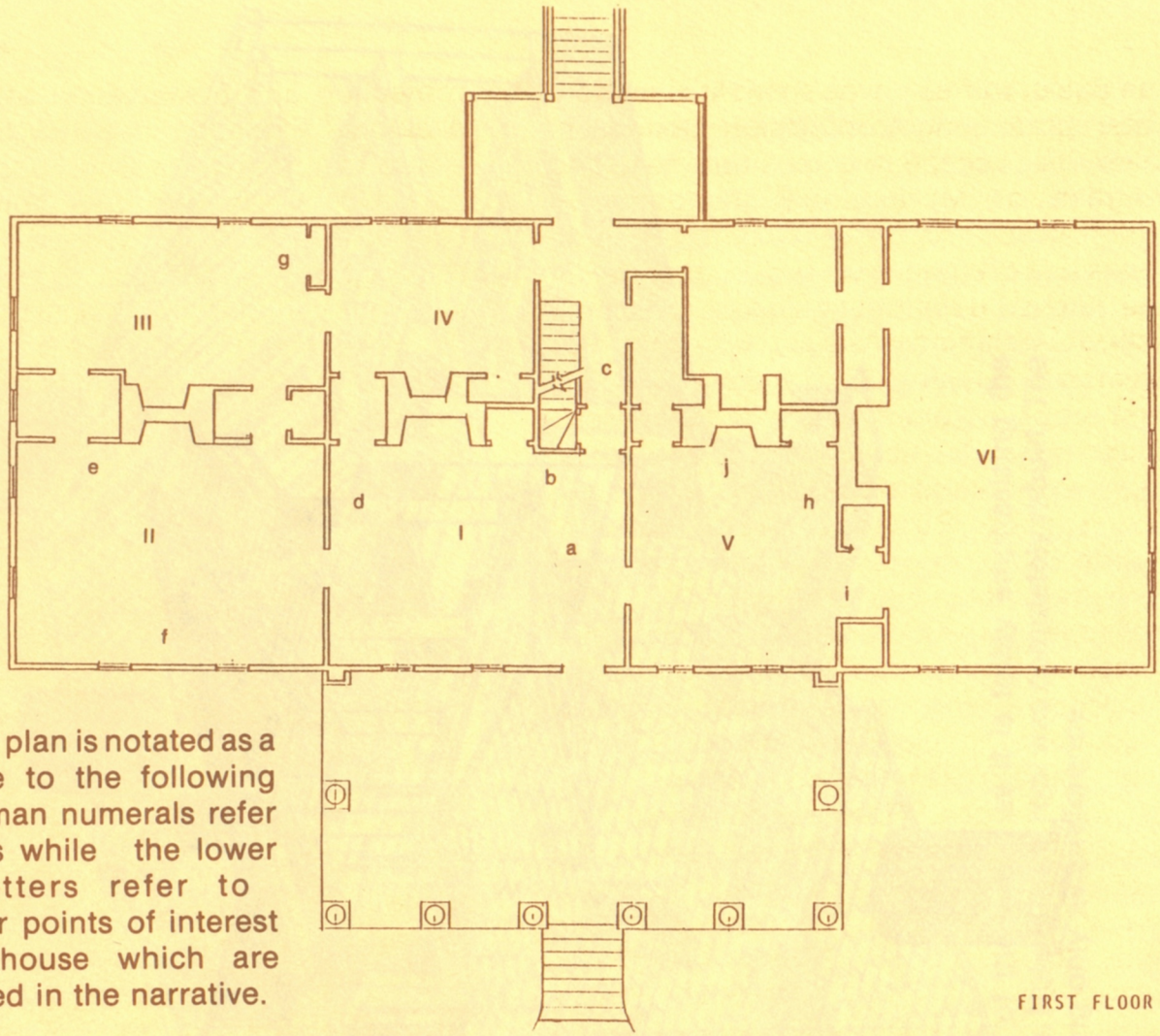
the age of thirteen, was spent at Hampton. After graduating from Union College in 1904, he accepted a position teaching English at Mercersburg Academy in Pennsylvania. He remained for thirty-three years and eventually served as chairman of the English department. Besides teaching school, Archibald was busy writing. In 1907 he married Florence Hart and published his first book of poetry "Under the Pines". Three sons, Archibald Hamilton Rutledge Jr., Henry Middleton Rutledge IV, and Irvine Hart Rutledge, were born at Mercersburg, the Rutledge family was able to visit Hampton only during the Christmas holidays. Archibald and his sons were avid hunters. The uncultivated land around Hampton yielded an abundant supply of deer, turkey, duck, and wild boar. Both his poetry and prose reflected Archibald's love of the Santee. Besides collections of poetry, he published numerous books and was also a frequent contributor to magazines for sportsmen such as "Field and Stream" and "Sports Afield". In recognition of this national literary reputation the state legislature of South Carolina named Archibald Rutledge poet laureate in 1934.

In January 1935 Archibald's wife Florence died of a stroke. He decided in the spring of 1937 to retire from teaching and return to Hampton to live. Therefore, in August 1937 Archibald with Alice Lucas Rutledge, whom he had married in July 1936, arrived at the Santee to begin restoration of the family home.

In his most popular work "Home by the River" published in 1941, he described his efforts at restoration of the plantation house. Between 1937 and 1967 hundreds of people visited Hampton, often drawn by reading Rutledge's work. He and Alice generally spent the winter months at Hampton and the summer months at her home in Spartanburg until Archibald broke his hip in 1967. A little more than a year after this accident Alice died.

In order to insure the continued protection and preservation of Hampton, Archibald Rutledge decided to sell the estate to the state of South Carolina. He sold the house and two hundred and seventy-five acres to the state in 1971 and returned to his birthplace, the Rutledge summer cabin in McClellanville. On 15 September 1973 Archibald Rutledge died and was buried in the family grave site at Hampton.

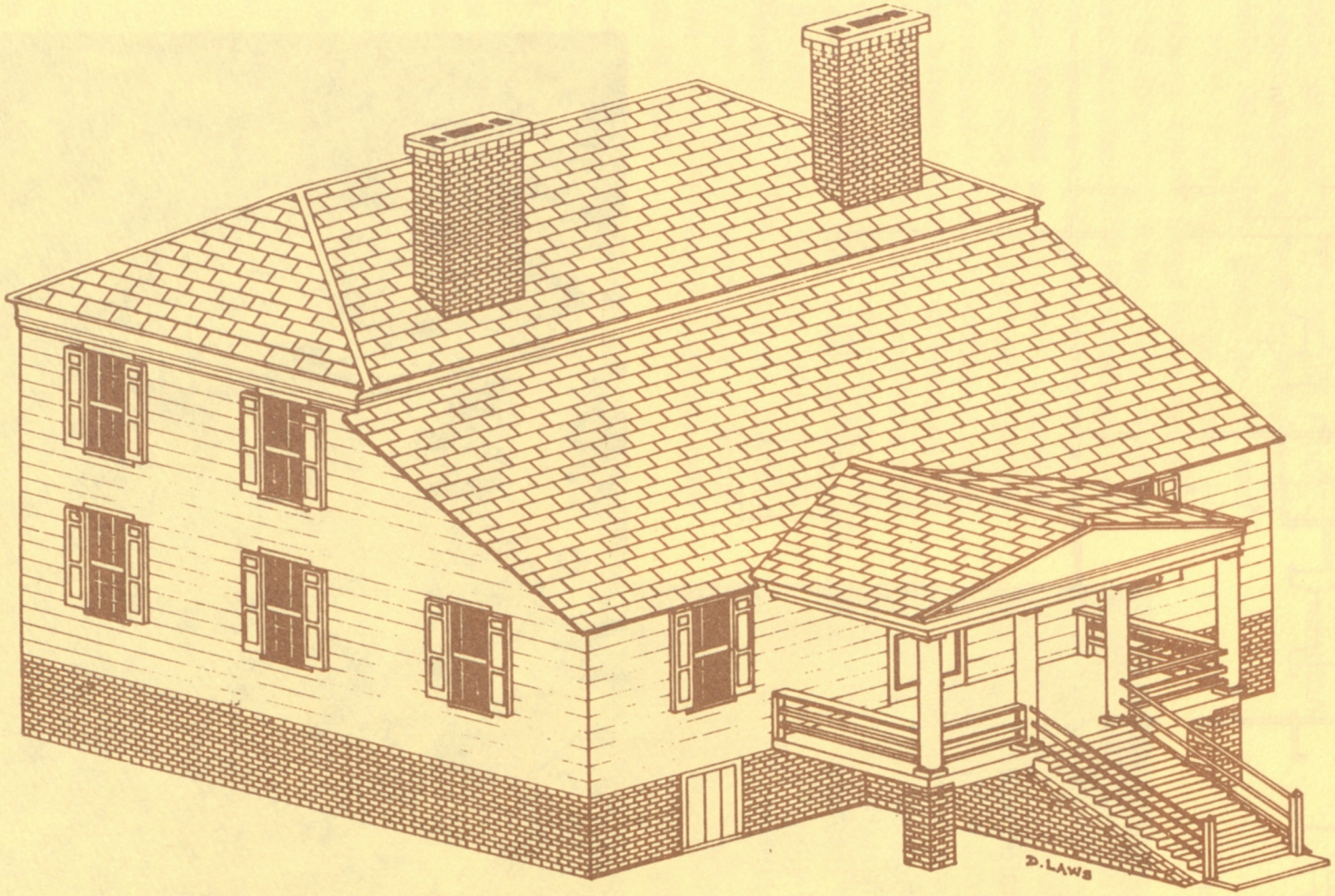
Archibald Rutledge, Poet Laureate of South Carolina and last of his line to live at Hampton.



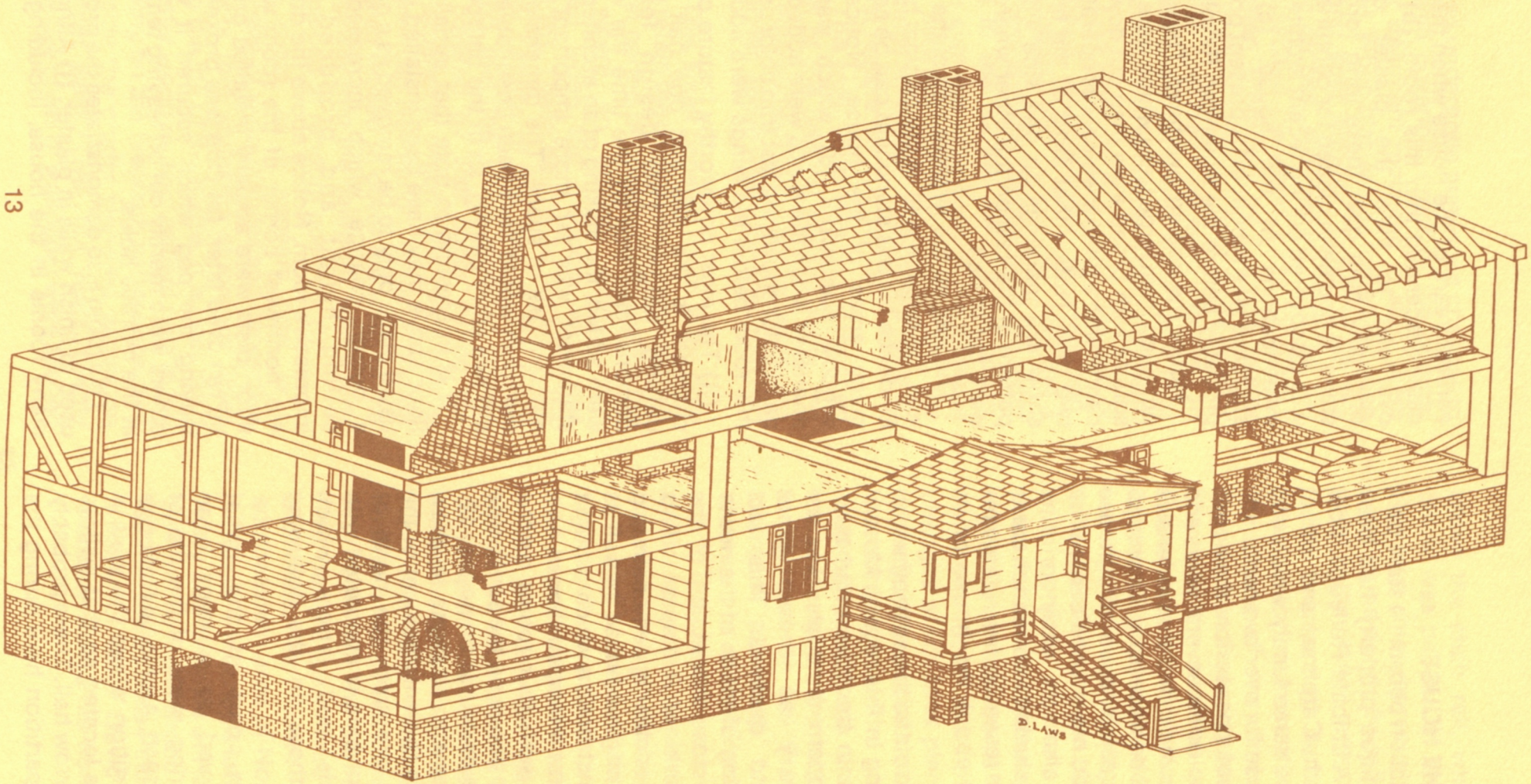
The floor plan is notated as a reference to the following text. Roman numerals refer to rooms while the lower case letters refer to particular points of interest in the house which are mentioned in the narrative.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Hampton Plantation today



This conjectural drawing represents the house as it might have originally appeared.



This schematic drawing shows the shape of the house as it is today emphasizing the additions surrounding the original structure. Note that the roof was completely rebuilt. The shape of the old roof appears in this drawing only as a reference.

THE HOUSE

Hampton Plantation became a state park in 1971. This unique property had been purchased from Archibald Rutledge, poet laureate of South Carolina, and direct descendent of the same family which had occupied the house for over two centuries. When the state took possession, the house had been unoccupied for several years and initial inspections indicated that extensive renovation would be necessary. Thorough documentary research about the house and its owners had never been carried out and this was also an early priority. Although much valuable information came to light during this research, few references were discovered about the house or its construction.

It was the fabric of the house itself which was most revealing in this regard. Most of the interior walls in the house had been covered with modern materials over the previous century as the original workmanship had decayed. This fact allowed dismantling of much of the newer surfaces and a close inspection of the ancient framework of Hampton. This internal evidence is clear in demonstrating the extent of the original house as well as the pattern of construction which brought it to its present size. Hampton began as a small farmhouse with four rooms on the first floor and two above on the south side of the house. The drawings on pages 12 and 13 are schematic attempts to show the major steps in the enlargement of the house. All views are from the north or riverside. The floor plan is annotated with Roman numerals and letters which correspond to those in the following descriptive text.

(I) This room, part of the initial construction, served as a large open entrance hall during most of the life of Hampton. About 1940, Archibald Rutledge constructed a partition where the joint in the flooring **(a)** is located so that visitors entered a long narrow hall. There probably had also been a partition here during the earliest years of the house when the staircase descended into this room. **(b)** Look overhead to view the plaster ceiling originally built over these long forgotten stairs. It had been hidden for centuries and was discovered during recent architectural investigations of the house. **(c)** The staircase was rebuilt in its present position probably before the American Revolution.

Notice the timbers overhead. These were obtained from large trees which were hewn square with broad axes then cut down the center with a pit saw which was operated by two men. Notice that most of the timbers show axe markings on one side with the pattern of the saw on the other where they were cut in half.

The wall on the western side of the room was the outside wall of the original house. Evidence for this statement can be seen in many areas of the house. Notice the window framework **(d)** which was left unaltered when the wings were added. The paint color shows the last trim color used in this room before the wings were added.

(II) The most noteworthy feature of this chamber is the one and one half story ceiling height. This design feature demonstrates that by the time the wings were added, the making of an architectural statement was far more important than efficient use of space. The dimensions of the room would have been unsuitable for a full two story ceiling, as in the ballroom.

It is interesting to note that initially the floor above may have been installed in the usual place only to be removed as a part of a design change which increased the ceiling height and produced this impressive room. Notice above the door in the northwest corner of the room where floor joists were actually installed only to be removed later. **(e)** One was broken out leaving the peg which secured it while others were merely cut off leaving tennons in the mortise holes.

This room also demonstrates the process used to finish walls in plaster. **(f)** Although many rooms in the house, including this

one, had undergone numerous changes in their wall covering, proof of the original plaster treatment remained in all of them but one. When plaster was forced between the hand split wooden "laths" it left the verticle stripes, still evident here, as the lime bleached the wood. Lime for plaster was often produced by burning oyster shells in a kiln, although finer grade lime for the finish coat may have been imported. In the base coats sand was added as a filler while animal hair served as a binding agent.

(III) Like Room II, this room was part of the major enlargement of Hampton. Wainscoating and heavy chair rails are a consistent stylistic change from the older rooms in the central core of the house. Notice also the difference in mantelpiece styles between the older rooms and the later wings. The built-in cupboard **(g)** is an unusual feature for this period.

(IV) This small room was part of the shed portion of the original house. During the major enlargement of the house two rooms were added above where the shed roof had been.

(V) This small paneled room is the only one to retain the original wall covering from the first period of construction. Notice the area where an original window was patched when the ballroom wing was added **(h)**. These boards do not show the original pattern of the rest of the room showing that the crude wooden panels were covered by wall paper during the great expansion which took place before the American Revolution. Original boards were also reused to cover the walls of the passageway into the ballroom, where they were placed in random position. **(i)**

The room, as it appears now, is a composite of various styles and decorative elements that appeared at various times during the life of the house. It is doubtful if the better workmanship evident here in the panelling on the fireplace wall ever existed alongside the cruder stenciled panels on the other walls. Over the years, twenty successive coats of wallpaper were applied above the chair rail, while the panelling below was painted in appropriate colors. This blue color represents the first layer of paint found during investigation. Under the paint is the stencil pattern.

The fireplace **(j)** demonstrates several attempts to heat more efficiently by altering the shape of the firebox. Most of the fireplaces in the house had been reduced in size with the addition of masonry walls. Elsewhere in the house the newer brickwork was torn out during restoration leaving the original large square firebox with rounded corners. Only in this room were portions of each alteration left in place for demonstration purposes.

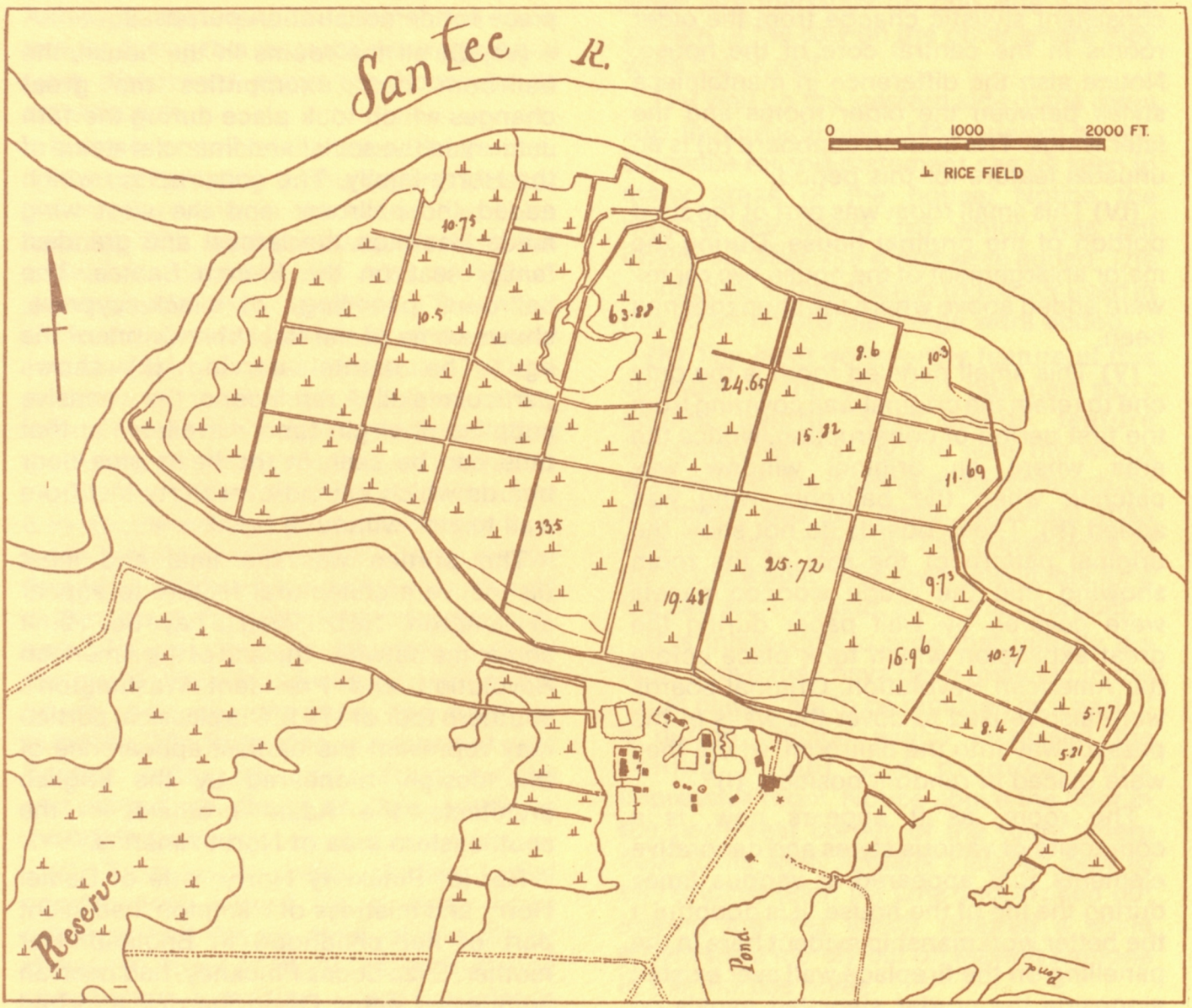
(VI) Of all the rooms in the house, the ballroom best exemplifies the great changes which took place during the 18th century in the social and financial status of the Horry family. The construction which added the ballroom and the west wing made Hampton the largest and grandest family seat on the French Santee. The ballroom panelling, of black cypress, shows some of the finest handwork of the age. The mantel carving **(k)** shows particular skill. A reminder of the extensive supplies of virgin timber available at that time can be seen in the heart pine floor boards which extend over thirty feet from wall to wall without a break.

The portico was the final and most distinctive architectural feature to appear at Hampton. It is believed to have been built sometime between the end of the American Revolution and President Washington's southern tour of 1791. The classical portico may represent the earliest appearance of this design, pioneered by the English architects, the Adam brothers, in the southeastern area of North America.

Harriot Pinckney Horry, wife of Daniel Horry and mistress of Hampton, had spent part of her childhood in England. Her mother, Eliza Lucas Pinckney, had been an admirer of actor David Garrick and had probably visited his home on the Thames

near her own home. Not only was Garrick's country house called Hampton but it had been substantially renovated by the Adam brothers including the construction of a portico which bears a striking resemblance to the one which was to be constructed on Wambaw Creek more than thirty years later. Although the evidence is circumstantial, it seems that Mrs. Horry's mother was the guiding spirit behind the final renovation of the house.

The portico had undergone some changes over the centuries. The original floor surface was composed of square red paving tiles. The concrete deck was installed over forty years ago by Archibald Rutledge. The concrete column bases also date from this time.



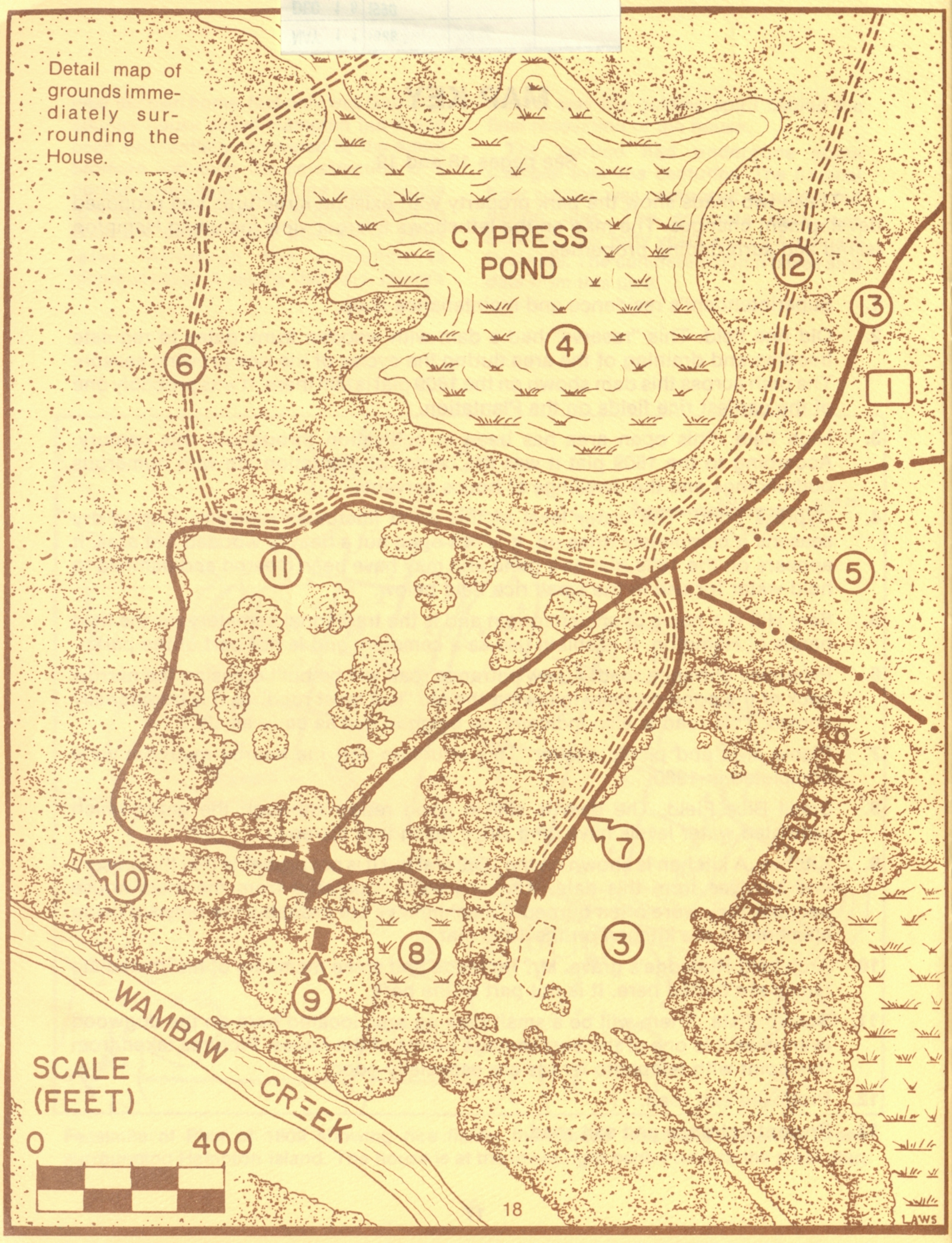
Facsimile of Plan of 1809 showing rice fields, the Santee River and Wambaw Creek surrounding Hampton Island. The house is at the lower right center next to the small star.

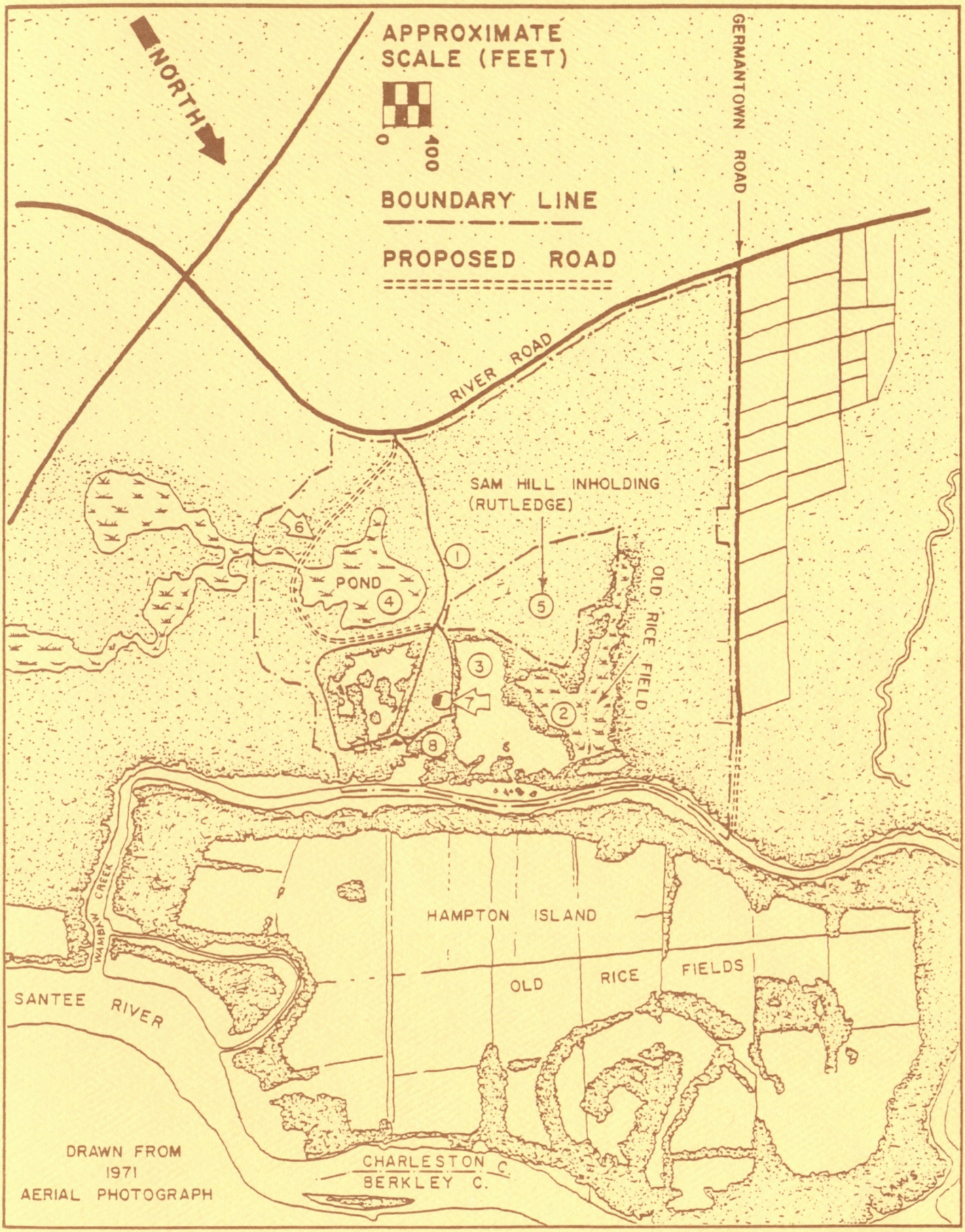
MAP KEY

See pages 18 and 19

These two maps show the park property with existing structures and proposed development changes. The map on the left shows a larger view including Hampton Island and surrounding properties.

1. Superintendent's residence and maintenance shop.
2. Old rice field. This "reserve" had a dam with wooden trunk gates to regulate flooding and draining of the area during the cycles of the rice growing season. The path across this dam shown on the 1809 plat is still there. It was probably one of the earliest rice fields on the Plantation.
3. High field. This open area has been in cultivation throughout this century. According to the 1809 plat it was the center of plantation life with numerous outbuildings and the dwellings of house servants.
4. Cypress pond. The water level of this pond fluctuates radically. During dry seasons it completely dries up. It is not open but a heavily wooded wet area. It appears on the 1809 plat as a pond and may have been cleared and damned to hold water for use in the small rice field below.
5. Sam Hill is a name of ancient origin and is the traditional cemetery for the field hands of Hampton. It is still in use as a cemetery and is not part of the park.
6. Proposed entrance road. A new entrance road will be built crossing the narrow neck of the pond partially following the old "low most road" as it is traditionally known. This road is also indicated as being in use as early as 1809.
7. Picnic area and picnic shelter. This structure and the nearby restroom were completed in 1980.
8. Small Rice Field. The dam is still in good repair although the gates which regulated water levels have long since fallen into disrepair.
9. Kitchen. A kitchen is shown on the 1809 plat but it is not probable that the present one survives from this date. Kitchens were separated from the main house because they were often burned. The chimneys are probably the only surviving elements of the kitchen on the 1809 plat.
10. Archibald Rutledge's grave. Mr. Rutledge and some members of his immediate family are buried here. It is not part of the park.
11. Scenic Vista. There will be a small parking area located here on the dogwood avenue as it is one of the best vantage points of the house. Pictures taken from this point with telephoto lenses are especially good.
12. Proposed exit road.
13. Present entrance and exit road.


Detail map of grounds immediately surrounding the House.
CYPRESS POND
4
6
12
13
1
11
5
7
10
8
3
9
WAMBAW CREEK
SCALE (FEET)
0
400
LAWS



Map of entire park and surrounding land.